

PROGRAM #21 - PHILLIPS BROOKS

Phillips Brooks, clergyman, was born in Boston, Mass., on Dec. 13, 1835, a member of the family which founded Phillips Exeter Academy, Phillips Andover Academy and Andover Theological Seminary. He was the second of six sons, four of whom entered the ministry. After graduating from Harvard at 19, he studied at the theological seminary at Alexandria, Va. Upon graduation at 24, he became rector of a church in Philadelphia.

During the Civil War Brooks upheld with dignity and power the cause of the North and the Negro. In 1865 his sermon at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, where Lincoln's body lay in state, received nationwide attention. This pure, uncomplicated man was gifted with excellent judgement, generous sympathies and a sense of both humor and poetry. At the age of 33 he wrote the words to O, Little Town of Bethlehem, which was first sung at Christmas in 1868.

Brooks was unrivaled in the pulpit as an orator. When inspired, his subject took possession of him, pouring forth with an overwhelming speed and a richness of phrase which electrified his congregations. In 1869 he became rector of Trinity Church, Boston, beginning a memorable ministry that would last until 1891, when Brooks was consecrated bishop of Massachusetts.

During his influential religious career, he preached at Westminster Abbey, and became the first American to preach before the Queen in the Royal Chapel at Windsor. He is memorialized in a stained glass window at St. Margaret's, the parish church of Westminster in the Abbey's shadow. Phillips Brooks died in Boston, Mass., Jan. 23, 1893.

PROGRAM #18 - JAMES BUCHANAN EADS

James Buchanan Eads, inventor and the only engineer elected to the Hall of Fame, was born at Lawrenceburg, Ind., on May 23, 1820. His family settled in St. Louis, where, at the age of 13, he left school to help support his family by selling apples on the streets and by clerking in a store. He later became a purser on a Mississippi river boat. In his early twenties Eads invented a diving bell and went into the steamboat salvage business. He married at 25, sold his interest in the business, and started a glass manufacturing plant in St. Louis. When it failed, leaving him \$25,000 in debt, he returned to the salvage business and amassed a fortune. In 1856 Eads urged Congress to dredge the Mississippi and its tributaries, but the bill was defeated. At the start of the Civil War, Lincoln urged him to help prepare military plans for the Western rivers. Eads proposed a fleet of armor-plated, steam-driven warships for the Mississippi. Told to build such a fleet, he guaranteed delivery of seven iron-clad gunboats in 65 days. The first was launched in 45 days. Six more followed in rapid succession, each constituting a vital factor in the military control of the river.

In 1867 Eads began a seven-year project to span the Mississippi at St. Louis with a bridge that would open the West to uninterrupted railroad transportation. The Eads Bridge, which opened in 1874, was one of the engineering marvels of its day. Later he cleared the mouth of the great river, making New Orleans an ocean port. James Buchanan Eads, one of the great pioneers of engineering, died at Nassau, Bahamas, on Mar. 8, 1887.

PROGRAM #22 - CHARLOTTE SAUNDERS CUSHMAN

Charlotte Saunders Cushman, actress, was born in Boston, Mass., July 23, 1816, a merchant's daughter of Pilgrim stock. She made her debut as an opera singer in 1835 in The Marriage of Figaro in Boston, then went to New Orleans with the company. There, either by whim or because her deep voice was strained in soprano roles, she turned to acting. A tall woman of regal bearing, she made her dramatic debut at 19 as Lady Macbeth. This role and Queen Katharine in Shakespeare's Henry VIII were her greatest triumphs. Later, in New York, she played Romeo, and also won critical praise and popular success in melodrama: Guy Mannering, based on Sir Walter Scott's novel, cast her as the old gypsy Meg Merrilies. Her portrayal of the tragic Nancy Sykes in Oliver Twist also brought critics to their feet and the public to the box office. In 1843 she formed her own company at Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater, where she performed with her sister Susan. In 1844, she sailed for England, determined to conquer the London stage. On Feb. 13, 1845, she opened as Lady Macbeth to great acclaim; then followed successes as Rosalind in As You Like It; Portia in The Merchant of Venice; Romeo to her sister's Juliet; and Meg Merrilies, a role that remained among her best known characterizations. Returning home in 1849 she was honored as America's leading actress. She announced her retirement in 1852, but remained before the public until a year before her death. Miss Cushman died in Boston on Feb. 17, 1876, ending a distinguished 40-year career.

PROGRAM #25 - ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

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Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, Mar. 3, 1847, the son of a distinguished elocution teacher whose system of visible speech helped the deaf to talk. Young Aleck studied in London, then worked with his father until illness forced the family to go to Canada in 1870. In 1871 Aleck was teaching the deaf in Boston; two years later he was a professor of vocal physiology at Boston University. Meanwhile he was using his knowledge of speech mechanics to experiment with a device to send spoken words over wires.

By 1875 Bell was able to transmit mechanical vibrations. On Mar. 3, 1876, his 29th birthday, his first patent was granted. Seven days later he spoke the first words into the completed instrument: "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you." That summer Bell's invention was shown at the Philadelphia Centennial, where it might have been overlooked had not the visiting Emperor of Brazil asked for a demonstration. "It talks!" His Excellency exclaimed in amazement, and the telephone became the sensation of the Centennial. In July, 1877, the Bell Telephone Company was organized and newlywed Alexander Graham Bell and his bride went abroad, where he demonstrated his telephone to Queen Victoria. Upon his return Bell faced a long period of patent litigations, but his claims were completely upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. With his telephone a commercial success, Bell continued to invent other aids for transmitting sound and speech, but his career did not interrupt his activities as an educator of the deaf. He died in Nova Scotia, Aug. 2, 1922, at the age of 75.